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Paper No. 15

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. BOX 10395  
CHICAGO IL 60611

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**SEP 16 2003**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

DECISION ON PETITION

In re Application of  
Hugh G. Chilton et al.  
Application No. 08/855,387  
Patent No. 5,902,480  
Filed: May 13, 1997  
Issue Date: May 11, 1999  
Attorney Docket No. 3747-021  
Title: DEPTH MEDIA IN-TANK FUEL  
FILTER WITH EXTRUDED MESH SHELL

This is a decision on the petitions under 37 CFR §§1.378(b) and 1.378(c), filed August 14, 2003 and September 11, 2003, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent under the unavoidable and unintentional standards, respectively.

Regarding the petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(b), the petitioner has requested that the petition be withdrawn. Therefore, the petition is **DISMISSED AS MOOT**.

Regarding the petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.378(c), the petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued on May 11, 1999. The grace period for paying the 3½ year maintenance fee provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e) expired at midnight on May 11, 2003, with no payment received. Accordingly, the patent expired on May 11, 2003.

This petition was timely filed within twenty-four months after the expiration of the six-month grace period. As required, petitioner submitted with the petition the required maintenance fee, the surcharge for accepting an unintentionally delayed maintenance fee after expiration, and a statement that the delay in payment of the maintenance fee was unintentional.

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

After this decision is mailed, the application file will be forwarded to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-0011.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Shanoski".

Paul Shanoski  
Attorney  
Office of Petitions  
United States Patent and Trademark Office